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Letter dated 27 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform that on 19 April 2000 the Serbs of Kosovo Polje, Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, rejected the invitation extended to them a day before by the representatives of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to participate in joint interim administrative structures. They made their acceptance of the invitation contingent on the ending by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and UNMIK of the chaos and lawlessness that prevail in the area and on the creation of conditions for normal life.

In their letter to UNMIK and KFOR, the Serbs write that 11 Serbs have been killed in their municipality since the arrival of the international presences and that 7 have been kidnapped and scores wounded, while many of them are experiencing daily pressures. In Kosovo Polje itself over 100 Serbian houses have been looted and burned and 150 Serbian apartments illegally moved into by ethnic Albanians. In the last nine months, 6,000 Serbs and 4,000 Roma have been expelled from Kosovo Polje and the surrounding area, while the villages of Dobri Dub, Velika Slatina, Ariljaca, Gornje i Donje Dobrevo, Vragoloja and Nakarade have been ethnically cleansed and the property of their Serbian residents looted, burned or otherwise destroyed. The Orthodox church in the village of Pomazatin was dynamited and damaged. Four thousand Serbs have been sacked from work in various businesses in Kosovo Polje which, before the arrival of KFOR and UNMIK, employed both Serbs and Albanians, while some 2,500 Serbian students no longer attend schools in Kosovo Polje.

Emphasizing that, under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, KFOR and UNMIK are mandated to establish peace and order, as well as norms of civilized behaviour and that, instead, they are countenancing the destruction of everything that is Serbian, the Serbs write that an unprecedented Albanization takes place in their midst and that the names of schools, streets, neighbourhoods and institutions are being changed. They say that, in the circumstances, they cannot accept the invitation to cooperate and participate in the joint interim administrative structures and that no positive response will be forthcoming as long as chaos, lawlessness and anarchy prevail in Kosovo Polje. They go on to say that, instead of addressing the vital problems of the Serbian people and ensuring its freedom, security, safety and survival, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of UNMIK

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is leaning over backwards to justify the crimes to the world, explaining them as revenge, revanchism and retribution and invoking — some humanist — the primitive law of "eye for eye, tooth for tooth". The Serbs claim that the internationally organized registration and elections in Kosovo and Metohija are aimed at legalizing the existing situation, i.e., the ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Serbian people under the auspices of the international community. Taking up the request of Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo, addressed to the international community to grant independence to that Serbian province, the Serbs write that, pending an historic agreement between the Serbian and Albanian peoples, there will be no future and perspective for the Albanian people either. The Serbs conclude their letter with the statement that the representatives of the international community can earn the confidence of the Serbian people only through a determined implementation of decisions and the creation of genuine conditions for multi-ethnic life and with an appeal that it is high time that the international community addressed the problems of the Serbian people, put an end to its expulsion and created conditions for a substantive return of Serbian expellees. Only then could the international community request the Serbs to participate in the joint interim administrative structures.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.